LOADING AND FIRING INSTRUCTIONS
FOR THE OFFICIAL

STONEWALL JACKSON PISTOL

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It is not surprising that Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson carried an 1851 Navy Colt Revolver, even though it was a sidearm made in Yankee territory. The Colt .36 caliber percussion revolver was the favorite weapon of officers on both sides of the War Between the States. After the war started, however, only a lucky few in the South obtained Colts.

Until the introduction of the Single Action Army Revolver, the "Peacemaker," the 1851 Navy was Colt's most popular gun. It led a distinguished career as an officer's weapon in the United States Army. The majority of the Southern officers, including Stonewall Jackson, were in the U.S. Army prior to the War Between the States and were issued an 1851 Navy.

It was the weapon of first choice both in the North and the South during the Civil War because of its light weight and accuracy. When the South could no longer obtain Colts from Hartford, Connecticut, they made counterfeits in Augusta and Macon, Georgia.

The '51 Navy also went West with the settlers. They rode in saddle holsters with the cowboys, rustlers, and outlaws who proliferated after the War.

Nathan L. Swayze, the arms historian, calls the '51 Navy "one of the most graceful and beautiful of all Sam Colt's percussion pistols." R.L. Wilson, author of numerous books on antique firearms, including *The Colt Heritage* and *Colt Engraving*, says the 1851 Navy Colt is "a remarkable example of superb design and craftsmanship."

The 1851 Colt Navy percussion revolver is one of the sweetest shooting and most accurate of all revolvers, black powder or cartridge, antique or modern. Marksmanship with a '51 Navy requires some knowledge of the gun, however.

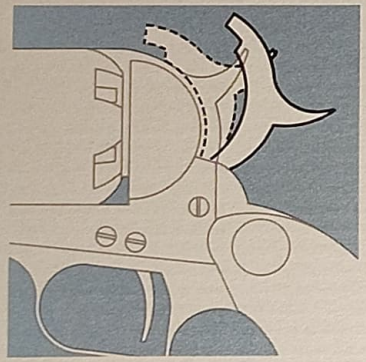
Don't overload the chambers of the cylinder. For target shooting, 16 grains is just right if you are shooting a round ball. A heavier charge will give greater penetration but less accuracy. It is human nature to add a pinch more of anything that the recipe calls for, but this does not increase the efficiency of the revolver. Use 16 grains for maximum accuracy and never more than 25 grains for maximum penetration with round balls, and 12 to 15 grains with conical projectiles.

The diameter of the bullet should be .376. You can cast your own lead with a mold obtainable from any gun shop which handles muzzle loading supplies. To shoot the easy way, you can buy already cast bullets in different shapes.

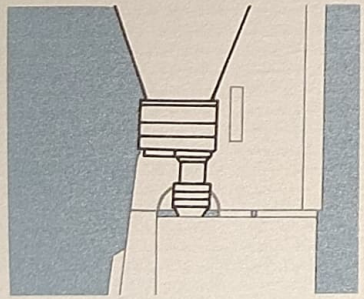
In order to shoot your 1851 Colt .36 caliber Navy, you will need FFFg gunpowder (not smokeless) and a box of No. 11 caps.

To Load Your Percussion Revolver

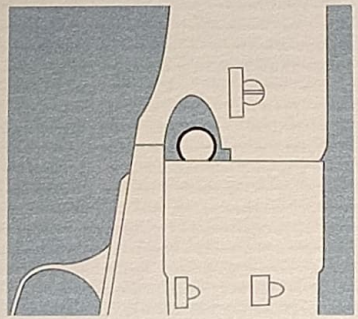
1. First, cock the hammer halfway by pulling it back to half cock. This will allow the cylinder to revolve freely.



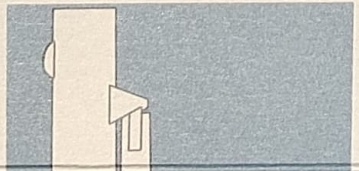
2. Pour a pre-measured charge of powder into one of the chambers.



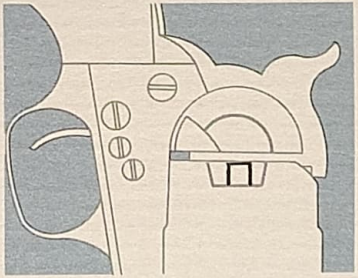
3. Seat the ball, with sprue up, on the mouth of the chamber and rotate the cylinder until the ball is under the loading lever.



4. Ram the charge home with the loading lever piston (the lever drops down when you retract the spring loaded catch of the ramrod. The catch is located under the muzzle of the barrel.) Repeat the process until 5 of the 6 chambers have been loaded. Then seal the balls with black powder lubricating grease (shortening will do) to prevent chain-firing.

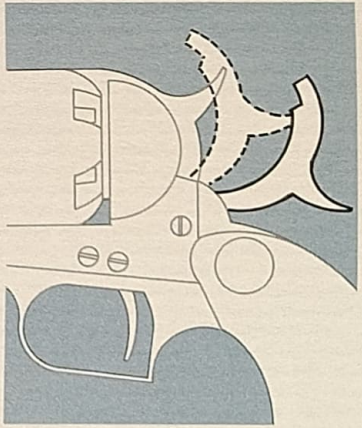


5. Push a percussion cap on each of the 5 nipples. The hammer can then be lowered carefully onto the unprimed nipple and the revolver can be carried safely without fear of discharge. Be sure not to snap the hammer or let the hammer hit the



uncovered nipple with force. This will smash the nipple and close the hole which conveys the flash to the powder in the chamber. If this happens, the deformed nipple must be removed with a special nipple wrench and a new nipple must be screwed in.

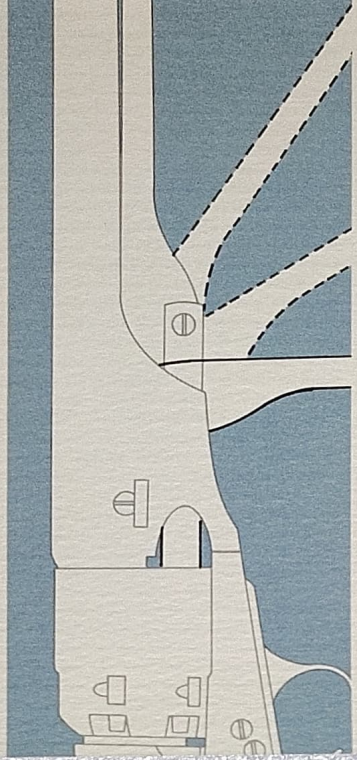
6. When you are ready to shoot, pull the hammer all the way back to full cock, aim the revolver and pull the trigger. You will notice that the cylinder revolves each time that you cock the hammer.



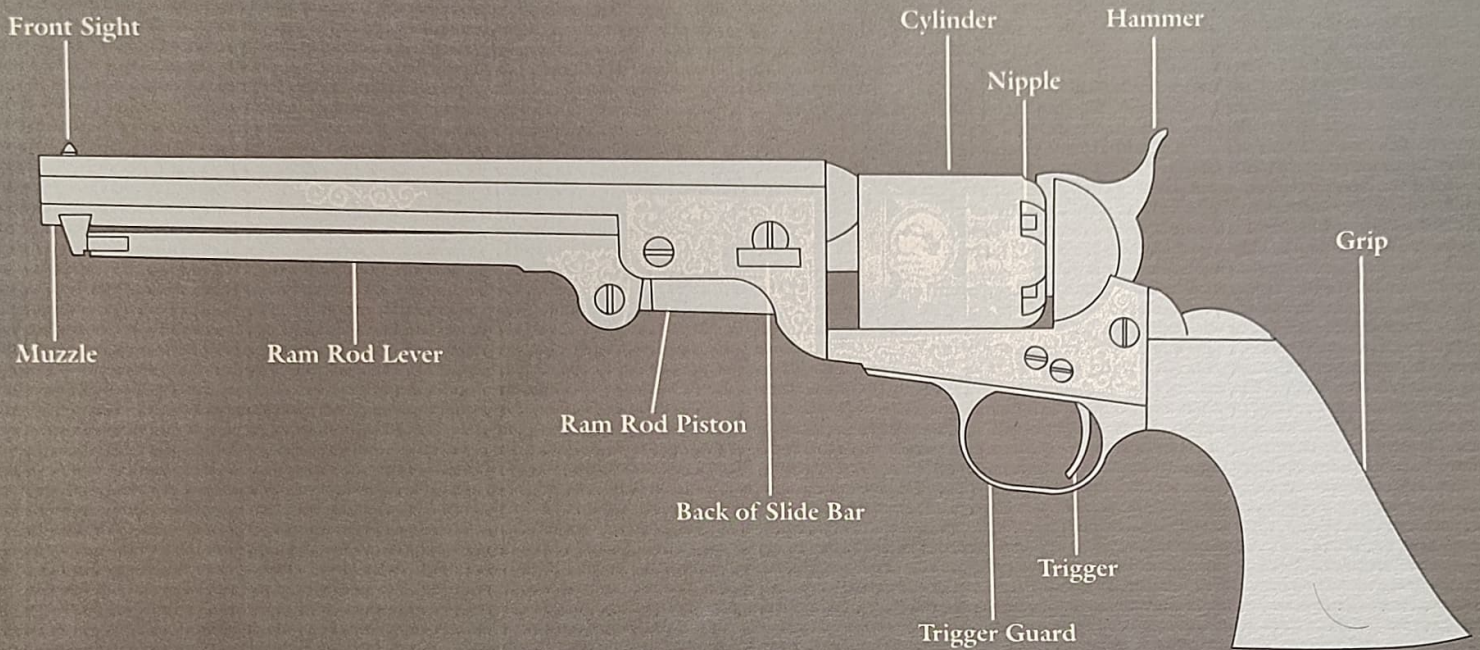
Because it is a time-consuming chore to load the percussion revolvers, many soldiers carried a spare cylinder that was already loaded. They could insert this loaded cylinder by removing the slide bar which retains the barrel and pulling the barrel forward to free the cylinder. The slide bar is located on the left side of the frame ahead of the cylinder and is held in place with a screw.

Specifications

Length: 13 inches
Caliber: .36
Weight: 2 pounds, 9 ounces
Cylinder: steel, decorated in 24-karat gold
Grip: walnut, inlaid with a gold-on-bronze medallion
Frame and Barrel: steel, decorated in gold, etched and blued
Triggerguard and Backstrap: Brass, clad in 24-karat gold
Percussion Caps: No. 11
Gun Powder: Black powder only, type FFFg



Always wear safety glasses and hearing protection whenever you shoot any firearm!


Front Sight
Cylinder
Hammer
Nipple
Grip
Muzzle
Ram Rod Lever
Ram Rod Piston
Back of Slide Bar
Trigger
Trigger Guard

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